meant for the State as a whole. The distribution within the State is the responsibility of the respective State/UT Governments.

Increase in the Prices of Essential Commodities

21. SHRI J. P. JAVALI:
SHRI JAGESH DESAI:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI N. E BALARAM:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of all the essential commodities have gone up during the month of January|February, 1991 if so, the extent of increase itemwise;

(b) what is the percentage of increase as compared to that of the last year and the reasons for the increase; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to check the price rise, if so, the details thereof and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) A statement showing the percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities between 29-12-1990 and 2-2-1991 is given at statement. I.

(b) A statement showing the percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities in the corresponding period of last year (between 30-12-1989 and 3-2-1990) is given at statement II.

The rise in the prices of essential commodities during the period is mainly due to factors like: (i) Short-fall in production of some of the essential items like oilseeds and pulses, (ii) upward revision of minimum procurement, support prices of both Kharif and Rabi Crop, such as Paddy, wheat, Pulses oilseeds, etc. (iii) upward revision in the prices of Petroleum Products first in the Union Budget for 1990-91 and subsequently on 14-10-1990, (iv) increase in railway freights and fares in Railway Budget 1990-91, and (v) other factors such as cumulative effect of high liquidity and increase in money supply sustained consumer demand, demand and supply gap in items like pulses and edible oils.

(c) The Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in the prices of essential commodities. Both long term and short-term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken broadly include steps to increase production of essential commodities, procurement and buffer stocking operation of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System (PDS), enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures, and augmenting domestic supplies through imports wherever necessary so as to check and abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities.

Statement-I

Commodity	Percentage Variation in Wholesale Price Index 2-2-1991 / 29-12-1990
1	2
Rice	+1·9
Wheat	+15·0
Jowar	+6·5
Bajra	+11·5

1	2
Gram	+·4
Arhar	+6 0
Moong	+3 0
Masoor	+21·4
Urad	+6 4
Potatoes	—19·7
Onions	+0 4
Milk	+1·0
Fish	- ·8.9
Meat	—1·1
Chillies	+15 9
Tea	+1·4
Kerosenes	+0·1
Atta	+2.9
Sugar	+2.6
Gur	—2 .3
Salt	+0·6
Vanaspati	+6.4
Gingelfy Oil	+4·5
Mustard Oil	+9 0
Coconut Oil	+6·6
Groundnut Oi]	+18·3
Cotton Cloth (Mills)	+1 8
Soap (Laundry)	Steady
Soap (Toilet)	Steady
Matches	Steady
All Commodtties	+1·9

Statement-II

Commodity	Percentage Variation in the Wholesale Price Index
	3-2-1990
	30-12-1989
Rice	—0·2
Wheat	—2.5
Jowar	—7.2
osa Bajra	—2 .2
Gram	+3 .8
Arhar	+1.1
Moong	—5.0
Masoor	—4.9
Urad	—3 3
Potatoes	—14 .4
Onions	—21·0
Milk	—0 .7
Fish	+0 .2
Meat	+1.4
Chillies	—4 .7
Tea	+18·3
Kerosene	Steady
Atta	—0.1
Sugar	+0·4
Gur	—1·5
Salt	+1·7
Vanaspati	—1.1
Gingelfy Oil	+18·22
Mustard Oil	+0.6
Coconut Oil	+1.0
Groundnut Oil	+12.3
Cotton Cloth (Mills)	+1 0
Soap (Loundry)	Steady
Soap (Toilet)	Steady
Matches	Steady
All Commodtties	+1.1